

October 7, 2019

The regular meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Monday, October 7, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall with James St. Clair presiding.

Members Present: James St. Clair, Matt Smith, James McDonnell, Judy Hoffer, Jeff Craig, and Terry Murphy. Absent was Mariah Fisher.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Jan Shaw, Street Supervisor Ron Ross, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, LVPD Chief John Berger, Engineer Ben Faas, Solicitor George Welty, Zoning Officer Rick Schwab. Absent was Code Enforcement Officer Shawn Knepper, Fire Chief Steve Barron.

Jr. Council Member: Izabella Wentzell, a Borough resident and senior at LVHS.

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Jeff Craig to accept **Izabella Wentzell** as our Jr. Council Member. All of Council was in favor.

Rick Smith Recognition: Recognition was given to Officer Rick Smith retiring with 54 years of service to the Borough. Smith was given a plaque in honor of his service.

A proclamation was presented by Mayor Bellas.

President St. Clair called for a brief executive session for litigation. Council returned from executive session at 7:25PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the minutes as presented from September 12, 2019. All of Council was in favor.

BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Judy Hoffer and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the Bills Payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Jeff Craig to approve the Consent Calendar as also presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mini Cell Tower Ordinance:

George Welty read over the proposed ordinance. It was noted that the Planning Commission recommended for approval.

Councilman James McDonnell stated that he had just received the proposed ordinance and has not had enough time to look over.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Jeff Craig to table action on the proposed ordinance until next month's meeting. All were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Temporary Sign Permit application received from Diamond Theatre of Ligonier for a 2x5' vinyl banner to be displayed from October 1-13, 2019 promoting the theatre.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve. The motion carried with all in favor.

Temporary Sign Permit application received from the Heritage United Methodist Church requesting to place a satin fabric sign 7.5'x18" on the steps in front of the church during worship service.

The application was denied because it lacks a time duration and it was noted that the sign should be removed until new application is submitted and approved.

Use of Diamond and Bandstand Facilities request received from Justin Martinez requesting to “Teach on Bullying” from 3PM-6PM Thursday, November 7, 2019. Special equipment requested to use is microphone, stereo, amp., and puppets.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve the above request. All were in favor.

Letter received from Clint Mullen of LVMS asking approval to hold their annual 5K Race Friday, October 18, 2019 from 11AM-12PM. Chief Berger & LV first responders are in the process of being contacted for their assistance and support.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve and ask them to take all signs down following the event. The motion carried with all in favor.

Ligonier Borough was approached by Esther B Ulery of Penn State Extension representing Young Lungs at Play Program regarding updating signs at Friendship Park to include No Vaping.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to approve the request from Penn State Extension. The motion carried 6-0.

Letter received from Judy Ebberts on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary requesting support for the Glow Green Project by approving the placing of one lantern on the Diamond preferably near the fountain to “glow” green from November 4 – November 15, 2019 in support of veterans and military families.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Judy Hoffer to approve. All of Council was in favor. Street Supervisor Ron Ross is to take care of the request.

Letter received from LV Library asking the Borough to consider an allocation of at least \$1,200.00.

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Terry Murphy to approve the \$1,200.00 allocation. All of Council was in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS & RECREATION

Chairman James McDonnell reported that Darr Construction has completed the punch list items with the exception of the Bandstand handrail painting. This should be completed by Wednesday of this week. Final payment is being held until punch list is complete. A 12 month warranty inspection will be completed by Street Supervisor Ron Ross and engineer Greg Elliott on the 14th.

Digital Audio components have been located in Montana by a company called Digital Audio Technologies for \$1,200 for the two audio exhibits on the Diamond Park. It was reported that there would be approximately \$600-800 fee to install.

The two replacement trees for the Diamond will be planted at the end of October. Engineer Greg Elliott is coordinating with Silvis and Darr Construction.

McDonnell reported that the committee is still waiting on a proposal for the gutter on the Bandstand.

TOWN HALL

Judy Hoffer, Town Hall chair reported that the Town Hall windows have been washed. It was also reported that a repeater has been ordered for the bell tower on top of Town Hall. It has not yet arrived. Hoffer wished everyone a safe and happy Fort Days.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Terry Murphy reported that the public works has been busy repairing the Fountain on the Diamond as well as repairing some sidewalks around town. Ron Ross added that people are filling their water bottles out of the recirculating fountain and draining it. A non-potable sign has been ordered to place on it.

Ron Ross reported awaiting a DEP grant to replace some equipment at Public Works.

Terry Murphy spoke of the possibility of hiring another public works person in the future.

Leaf pick up will begin the week after Fort Ligonier Days until December 1st, 2019.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairman Jeff Craig reported some months back it was agreed to split meter fines which the police officers write 50/50 between Ligonier Borough and LVPD. The police will be writing tickets when the Borough Meter Attendant is not on duty. The split is retroactive to January 1, 2019.

A motion was made by Jeff Craig and seconded by Matt Smith to split the meter fines written by LVPD officers between Ligonier Borough and LVPD retroactive to January 1, 2019. All of Council was in favor.

Jeff Craig reported that LVPD cars are in the process of being wrapped. One more is needed to be done.

Financial statements will be distributed from the police commission next month. Craig reported LVPD budget is operating close to breaking even.

It is highly likely that LVPD will be purchasing two new vehicles.

Shawn Knepper is now the school resource officer for Ligonier Valley. This is funded by a two-year grant. It is hoped that it will continue beyond the two years.

President St. Clair commented that without the police writing tickets at night, there would be no revenue generated to split. St. Clair feels this is a positive thing.

FINANCE

In Mariah Fisher's absence, Jeff Craig reported that the Finance Committee previously met and discussed the revenue side of the budget and will meet next Wednesday to discuss the expense side of the budget and begin the process to have a budget proposal to present to council in November.

PLANNING / PERSONNEL

Chairman Matt Smith asked Council to look over the Mini Cell Tower Ordinance. Without an ordinance Smith noted that we have nothing, and poles and posts can be put up in any right-a-way they wish.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS from OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Engineer Ben Faas reported that there are two new Grant Programs out there for storm water management. Faas to look into what the project would entail and come back to the November meeting with what it would cost the Borough.

A motion was made by Matt Smith and seconded by Jeff Craig to authorize Engineer Ben Faas to look into the available grants. All of Council was in favor.

Zoning Officer Rick Schwab reported receiving two additional Occupancy Permits after his monthly report went out.

Mayor Bellas announced that Trick or Treating in the Borough would be Thursday, October 31 from 6-8 PM with Merchant Trick or Treating from 5-6 PM.

President St. Clair thanked everyone for coming.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by James McDonnell and seconded by Matt Smith to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Shaw
Secretary-Treasurer

